

**MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010, AT 11:03 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS**

.....

Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners DeTienne, Flammini, Jim Taylor, Shantal Taylor and Mayor Harrison.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Delaine Rogers requested the Council provide her with a priority list for economic development. Council suggestions included the following:

- Pay off long-term debt
- Street, sewer and water projects
- Roadways and repaving projects
- Conveyance of radio transmitters to City of Zion
- Technology with computer replacements and upgrades

Commissioner Shantal Taylor suggested holding a community forum, requesting ideas from citizens. The Council agreed to provide Ms. Rogers with all ideas regarding potential economic development projects before Thursday, March 11.

BUDGET

Building Department

John Jones stated he included over-time wages in the Building Department budget, as he is proposing including 4 hour Saturday mornings to address weekend enforcement needs. Commissioner Flammini questioned why there are no proposed funds in the Demolition line item. Commissioner Jim Taylor stated such expenses could be considered if needed in the joint Contingency Fund.

Public Property

10-06-0-05-950 – Computer equipment – Computer Help Key has recommended upgrading equipment and software. Mayor Harrison questioned the need for upgrades at this time. Larry Pannell will further review this issue.

10-06-1-04-790 – Sprinkler system repairs – Repairs are needed along downtown Sheridan Road. Commissioner Jim Taylor recommended placing this item in TIF District #1, since it does qualify as a development for downtown.

Public Works

Ron Colangelo stated he removed the sidewalk line item (#590) from the budget, noting smaller projects could be done in-house. Commissioner Flammini recommended suspending this fund for one year.

10-04-1-02-301 – Mosquito spraying – Clerk Mackey recommended reducing this line item from \$25,000 to \$12,000, which will allow up to 3 citywide sprayings.

Mayor Harrison suggested if property owners of vacant homes or lots do not cut their grass, utilizing the Public Service Program for grass cutting. Mr. Colangelo stated he would check on the number of vacant homes to best understand the extent and time involved.

Mr. Colangelo stated the city clean up cost of \$80 should be increased to meet labor costs. Mr. Colangelo also suggested charging developers a fee for turn on/turn off water services. Commissioner Jim Taylor stated this could hamper real estate efforts, but agreed there should be a fee for this service.

60-00-1-00-660 – Grants – Mr. Colangelo stated he would provide Mr. Pannell with new figures for the CDBG and LAPP Grants.

Mr. Colangelo stated he is considering combining Public Works into one entity, which could save up to an estimated \$259,000, by moving the line item expense from the General Fund to the Water Fund. In order to do so, all employees would have to be cross-trained. Commissioner Jim Taylor stated future water rates would probably have to be increased.

Mr. Colangelo stated Capital Improvement Projects need to be undertaken through the Water and Sewer Extension Fund:

1. 21st Street Watermain Replacement
2. Gilead Avenue Relief Sewer

The Council agreed for Mr. Colangelo to proceed with the bid process for these projects.

The Council agreed, upon conclusion of all departmental budget presentations, the total proposed budget should be prepared and ready for review at the March 17 budget meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini that the Council recess to Closed Session at 1:34 p.m. to discuss personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners DeTienne, aye; Flammini, aye; Jim Taylor, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Jim Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini to reconvene the Special Council meeting at 2:50 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners DeTienne, aye; Flammini, aye; Jim Taylor, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Flammini and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 2:51 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk

Approved March 16, 2010